

Message Text

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QUOTE: S E C R E T BONN 05835

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TAGS: PEPR, US, GW, OVIP (GENSCHER, HANS DIETRICH)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHE TO WASHINGTON

BEGIN SUMMARY: COMING AT A TIME OF PUBLIC ATTENTION ON STRAINS BETWEEN THE US AND FRG, GENSCHE'S VISIT IS ABOVE ALL AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE (1) THE GLOBAL SCOPE OF US/FRG COOPERATION AND COMMON INTERESTS, THUS PROVIDING A PERSPECTIVE FOR THE SPECIFIC INSTANCES WHERE WE DIFFER, AND (2) THE ABILITY TO HANDLE OPENLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY THESE AREAS OF DIFFERENCE.

THERE ARE SEVERAL AREAS WHICH WE BELIEVE NEED PARTICULAR-
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LY TO BE REVIEWED. ONE IS THE OVERALL CLIMATE OF US-GERMAN RELATIONS, A SUBJECT ON WHICH WASHINGTON IS AWARE THAT GENSCHE IS ONE OF OUR BEST FRIENDS IN BONN, AND WHERE RECENT EFFORTS BY BOTH SIDES GIVE GROUNDS FOR SATISFACTION. OTHERS MAY BE WORRYING GENSCHE MORE DURING HIS VISIT:

--THE ER/RB WEAPON. GENSCHER, LIKE SCHMIDT, WILL BE MOST ANXIOUS FOR ASSURANCE THAT THE US WILL HANDLE THE DECISION ON THIS WEAPON AS A NATIONAL MATTER, MINIMIZING POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE EUROPEANS, INCLUDING THE FRG.

--NONPROLIFERATION. GENSCHER WILL WANT TO KNOW THE OPLICATIONS OF THE NONPROLIFERATION ACT AND OF THE PRESIDENNT'S VISIT TO BRAZIL FOR THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ARRANGEMENT. HE MAY ALSO HAVE INSIGHTS ON HOW THE EC VIEWS THE MATTER OF NEW EURATOM-US NEGOTIATIONS.

-- US POLITICAL STRATEGY. GENSCHER MAY ALSO WISH TO HAVE, EITHER AS A SEPARATE DISCUSSION OR IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER MATTERS, SOME DISCUSSION OF THE OVERALL POLITICAL STRATEGY OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE IN THE FACE OF THE SOVIET ARMS CHALLENGE AND OF RECENT SOVIET EFFORTS TO EXPAND ITS ROLE IN AFRICA. ANY COMMENTS THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT WISH TO MAKE IN THIS AREA WOULD PROBABLY PROVE HELPFUL TO GENSCHER AND SCHMIDT IN UNDERSTANDING THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF OUR POLICY AS THEY EVOLVE.

THE LAST POINT IS MOST IMPORTANT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ER/RB WEAPONS DECISION. THE GERMANS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY WANT TO UNDERSTAND HOW THAT DECISION FITS INTO OUR GLOBAL STRATEGY.

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THE ABOVE, AS WELL AS OTHER ISSUES BELOW, REPRESENT OUR BEST GUESS ON GENSCHER'S LIKELY INTERESTS.

END SUMMARY.

US-FRG RELATIONS

1. THERE ARE THREE POINTS TO COVER ON THIS TOPIC:

--EFFORTS BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN RECENT WEEKS HAVE PRODUCED RESULTS.

--WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO GENSCHER WE APPRECIATE HIS PERSONAL ROLE IN IMPROVING THE TONE COMING OUT OF BONN.

--EVEN MORE EFFORTS MAY BE NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE IF ISSUES SUCH AS THE ER WEAPON AND NONPROLIFERATION BEGIN TO COMPETE WITH MACROECONOMICS IN THE PUBLIC SPOTLIGHT.

ER/RB WEAPON

2. SCHMIDT, GENSCHER, APEL AND OTHERS WILL BE WORRIED THAT NOT ONLY US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS BUT THEIR OWN POLITICAL POSITIONS CAN BE HARMED IF THE FRG OR OTHER EUROPEAN ALLIES GET THE PUBLIC BLAME FOR THE US DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH PRODUCTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, REVEALING THAT THE FRG WAS IN FACT READY TO AGREE TO A PRODUCTION-NEGOTIATION-DEPLOYMENT SCENARIO WOULD SUBJECT THE GOVERNMENT TO ATTACK FROM WITHIN ITS OWN COALITION. GENSCHER WILL WANT REASSURANCE THAT THESE CONSIDERATIONS ARE BUILT INTO WASHINGTON'S PUBLIC HANDLING OF THE ISSUE.

NON-PROLIFERATION

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3. WE ANTICIPATE TWO AREAS OF DISCUSSION:

--GENSCHER WILL BE ANXIOUS TO KNOW RELEVANT RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS IN BRAZIL, AND HOW THESE, PLUS THE NEW NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION LEGISLATION, MAY AFFECT THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ARRANGEMENT, INCLUDING FUTURE FRG SUPPLY OF FUEL.

--GENSCHER WILL BE IN WASHINGTON AROUND THE APRIL 4 EC COUNCIL MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG, AND WILL GO FROM THE US TO THE EC SUMMIT IN COPENHAGEN. HE MAY HAVE INSIGHTS ON THE LATEST EC THINKING ON THE MATTER OF NEW EURATOM-US NEGOTIATIONS.

AFRICA

4. GENSCHER HAS A STRONG INTEREST IN AFRICA, PARTICULARLY SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THE HORN. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISITS, HE WILL WANT OUR LATEST ASSESSMENT ON AFRICAN ISSUES, INCLUDING OUR VIEWS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND HOW TO DEAL WITH SOVIET/CUBAN ADVENTURISM.

MIDDLE EAST

5. GENSCHER WILL BE INTERESTED IN OUR ASSESSMENTS IN LIGHT OF CONTINUING US EXCHANGES WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT. HE MAY ALSO WANT TO FOCUS ON THE SUBJECT OF PEACEKEEPING IN LEBANON. AND HE MAY WANT TO EXPLORE LONGER-TERM QUESTIONS OF HOW TO DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS ON
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MIDDLE EAST MATTERS.

DEFENSE AND STRATEGY ISSUES

6. WE ANTICIPATE THE FOLLOWING AREAS OF INTEREST:

-- A REVIEW OF PREPARATIONS FOR THE NATO SUMMIT AND,
PARTICULARLY, OF EXPECTATIONS FOR SUMMIT DECISIONS

-- AWACS. WE RECOMMEND A SHOW OF WASHINGTON IN-
TEREST, ALTHOUGH GENSCHER IS NOT TECHNICALLY
IN CHARGE OF THIS ISSUE. GENSCHER COULD THEN
REPORT US VIEWS TO

BONN PRIOR TO SECRETARY BROWN'S VISIT APRIL 13.

--AN OVERVIEW OF SALT, INCLUDING CURRENT STATUS OF
THE NEGOTIATIONS, CONGRESSIONAL ASPECTS, POSSIBLE
GLOBAL LINKAGES (AS WITH SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN
AFRICA), AND US THINKING ON SALT III AND GRAY
AREA SYSTEMS.

--MBFR, INCLUDING TIMING OF NEW INITIATIVES AND
THE POSSIBILITY OF LONGER TERM APPLICABILITY OF
THE MBFR FORUM FOR DISCUSSING GRAY AREA SYSTEMS.

--UNSSOD. GENSCHER WILL LIKELY WISH TO KNOW OUR
PREPARATIONS. WE SHOULD ASK HIM ABOUT GERMAN
PLANS, INCLUDING REPORTS OF POSSIBLE INITIATIVES
BOTH BY THE FRG AND BY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD).

TURKEY AND CYPRUS

7. GENSCHER HAS HEARD OUR CURRENT THINKING FROM DEPUTY
SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON MARCH 30. WE CAN ASK GENSCHER
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FOR AN UPDATE ON FRG-TURKISH CONTACTS (ECEVIT WILL VISIT
THE FRG IN MAY) AND FOR GERMAN IMPRESSIONS OF THE MOOD
IN ANKARA.

SUMMITS

8. GENSCHER MAY WANT A READING ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A

BILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRESIDENT CARTER BETWEEN THE UNSSOD AND THE NATO SUMMIT IN LATE MAY. HE MAY ALSO WANT TO REVIEW THE STATE OF PLAY ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED BILATERAL VISIT TO GERMANY IN JULY.

FRG POLITICS

9. FOLLOWING A HIGH POINT IN THE LATE FALL AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL MOGADISCIO OPERATION, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S COALITION IS AGAIN UNDER DOMESTIC PRESSURE ON SUCH ISSUES AS TERRORISM LEGISLATION AND PENSIONS. FURTHER, A SERIES OF CLOSE LEGISLATIVE VOTES RELATING TO TERRORISM HAVE UNDERSCORED HOW THIN THE COALITION'S MAJORITY IS IN THE FACE OF A HANDFUL OF DEFECTING SPD DEPUTIES. THE SCHMIDT COALITION ALSO FACES KEY ELECTIONS IN FOUR STATES IN THE COMING MONTHS, AND THE COMMON THREAD IN THESE IS THE PRECARIOUS POSITION OF THE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FDP), OF WHICH GENSCHER IS CHAIRMAN. IN ALL, THERE ARE GROWING RUMORS THAT THE FDP IS REVIEWING THE QUESTION OF REMAINING IN COALITION WITH SCHMIDT'S SPD. TIME PERMITTING, GENSCHER COULD PROVIDE A VALUABLE REVIEW OF SUCH DOMESTIC ISSUES.

10. COMMENTS BY GENSCHER'S OFFICE: AFTER THE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED, AN AIDE OF GENSCHER'S DID GIVE US A LIST
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OF TOPICS WHICH HE BELIEVED WOULD BE OF THE GREATEST INTEREST TO THE MINISTER. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

-- ALLIANCE QUESTIONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE AIDE SAID THAT GENSCHER WOULD HOPE TO COVER "ALL ISSUES," INCLUDING THOSE ALLIANCE ISSUES THAT THE DEPUTY SECRETARY HAD DISCUSSED HERE.

-- THE STATUS OF DISARMAMENT TALKS, SPECIFICALLY SALT AND MBFR. GENSCHER MAY ALSO WANT TO DO A QUICK PREVIEW ON THE UNSSOD.

-- THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

-- SOUTH AFRICA, MOST SPECIFICALLY NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA. GENSCHER MAY ALSO WANT TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, PERHAPS EXPANDING ON HIS INTEREST IN A "CODE OF CONDUCT" FOR WESTERN BUSINESSES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

-- NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION MATTERS.

-- SOME ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE DANGER OF PROTECTIONISM (IN THE GATT CONTEXT) AS WELL AS UNCTAD AND NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES.

11. THE AIDE SAID THAT GENSCHER WOULD WANT TO TALK ABOUT GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER GENSCHER WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS THIS AS A SEPARATE QUESTION OR AS AN ELEMENT IN OTHER TOPICS.

12. THE AIDE CAUTIONED, AS MUST WE, THAT GENSCHER HAD NOT YET HIMSELF FULLY DECIDED ON HIS AREAS OF CONCERN AND THAT VERY OFTEN THE TOPICS ON WHICH HE MIGHT CHOOSE TO CONCENTRATE TENDED TO TAKE SHAPE ONLY AT THE LAST MOMENT OR EVEN IN THE CONVERSATION ITSELF.

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HOWEVER, SINCE MOST OF THE POINTS MENTIONED BY THE AIDE ARE IN ACCORD WITH OUR OWN EXPECTATIONS, WE WOULD ASSUME THAT GENSCHER WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD FOCUS PRINCIPALLY ON THOSE TOPICS.

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